

The Transylvania County Board of Education recognizes that the use of tobacco products is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, employees, visitors, and school facilities. The Board believes that the use of tobacco products on school grounds, in school buildings and facilities, on school property or at school-related or school-sponsored events is detrimental to the health and safety of students, staff and visitors. The Board acknowledges that adult employees and visitors serve as role models for students. The Board recognizes that it has an obligation to promote positive role models in schools and promote a healthy learning and working environment. Finally, the Board recognizes that it has a legal authority and obligation pursuant to G.S. 115C 407 *Policy Prohibiting Tobacco Use in School Buildings* as well as the federal *Pro Children's Act*, *Title X of Public Law 103-227* and the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

### **Tobacco Use Prohibited**

No student, staff member or school visitor is permitted to use any tobacco product at any time, including non-school hours:

- In any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, rented or chartered by the Transylvania County Schools;
- On any school grounds and property including athletic fields and parking lots owned, leased, rented or chartered by the Transylvania County Schools; or
- At any school-sponsored or school-related event on campus or off campus.

In addition, school district employees, school volunteers, contractors or other persons performing services on behalf of the school district also are prohibited from using tobacco products at any time while serving in an official capacity, either on or off school grounds.

Further, no student is permitted to possess a tobacco product while in any school building, while on school grounds or property, or at any school-sponsored or school-related event.

Tobacco products may be included in instructional or research activities in public school buildings if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

### **Definition of Tobacco Products and Tobacco Use**

For the purposes of this policy, "tobacco product" is defined to include cigarettes, cigars, blunts, bidis, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, e-cigarettes, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products. "Tobacco use" includes smoking, chewing, dipping, or any other use of tobacco products.

### **Signage**

Signs will be posted in a manner and location that adequately notify students, staff and visitors of the 100 percent tobacco-free schools policy.

### **Enforcement for Students**

Consequences for students engaging in the prohibited behavior will be provided in accordance with the district's Student Conduct/Discipline Policy JFC. Students who violate the school district's tobacco use policy will be provided information on the harmful effects of tobacco use, techniques for stopping tobacco use, and information about tobacco cessation programs. Parents/guardians will be notified of all violations and actions taken by the school. Suspension will be used only after a student has had a prior tobacco violation or refused to participate in other disciplinary options.

### **Enforcement for Staff and Visitors**

Employees found to be in violation of the tobacco ban policy will be included in the following management system:

- First offense —— Verbal warning
- Second offense —— Written anecdotal with a copy in the employee's personnel file

Further offenses may result in suspension or dismissal of the employee.

Visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on school property or leave the premises. Law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing if the person refuses to leave the school property. Visitors with multiple violations of this policy may be banned from attending school functions.

### **Opportunities for Cessation**

The administration will consult with the county health department and other appropriate health organizations to provide students and employees with information and access to support systems, programs and services to encourage them to abstain from the use of tobacco products.

### **Prevention Education**

The administration will consult with appropriate health organizations to identify and provide programs or opportunities for students to gain a greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco use as it relates to providing a safe, orderly, clean and inviting school environment. The administration will ensure, per G.S. 115C-81.a3.11, that the North Carolina Healthful Living Education Standard Course of Study for grades K-9 be taught using sequential, age appropriate, current, accurate, evidence-based curricula.

### **Procedures for Implementation**

The administration will develop a plan for communicating the policy that may include information in student handbooks, announcements at school-sponsored or school-related events, and appropriate signage in buildings and around campus, effective July 1, 2006.

~~APPROVED BY BOARD 5/24/93~~  
~~AND EFFECTIVE 8/1/93~~  
~~REVISED 1/24/00~~  
~~REVISED 4/3/06~~  
~~REVISED 12/15/14~~

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